

# FOREIGN DEPARTMENT

IN CHARGE OF

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## ORGANIZATION NOTES

### ENGLAND

AN event of the utmost importance to the whole nursing world took place in London on May 30. The public meeting in favor of State registration for nurses was held in Morley Hall, having been preceded by a business meeting at which the final steps in organization were taken and the constitution finally adopted.

In case any of our readers' memories need jogging, we remind them that this movement for State registration was initiated and carried through by the Matrons' Council (corresponding to our Superintendents' Society). They conducted their preliminary campaign with great energy, and have now enrolled over five hundred members in a society definitely pledged to work for legislation.

The constitution of the society is very clear and definite: there is but one "object," viz., "to obtain by act of Parliament a bill providing for the legal registration of trained nurses." Membership is open to "trained nurses of three-years' experience."

Miss Louisa Stevenson, as we have previously noted, was elected president, and was expected to preside at this first meeting. To the deep regret of all, she was unable through illness to be present, but sent a letter which will appear later in *THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING* in a compiled article. The chair was ably filled by Miss Isla Stewart, who, as we know, holds well-poised views of registration, perceiving equally its benefits and its limitations. Strong and convincing arguments in behalf of legal status were made by nurses present, and it does not appear that anyone spoke against it.

Mrs. Bedford-Fenwick is the secretary of the new society.

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### AUSTRALIA

THE "Register of Members of the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association" has reached us,—sent, no doubt, by our kind co-worker and friend, Miss McGahey, and it presents several features of practical interest. As they have not yet State control of nursing education in Australia, this represents the standards agreed upon by a voluntary association of nurses and medical men. The volume gives a list of the hospitals in the different States of Australasia which are recognized by the council; then follows the list or register of members of the association, which really shows the whole history of each nurse, on the plan of "The Nursing Directory" published by the Matrons' Council in England, giving not only the hospital or hospitals in which she studied, but all of her positions or varieties of work to date.

In their "rules" we notice that "the council shall be empowered to receive the vote of any member by proxy on such questions and at such times when it may be deemed desirable in the interests of the association to obtain the opinion of all the members, provided always that reasonable notice of such question be supplied to each member and the form in which such proxy vote is recorded be approved of by the council."

This is practically a "referendum," or taking the vote of each individual on questions of special importance,—a procedure advocated by enlightened students of the principles of government, and which, if it could be oftener carried out, would be the best possible schooling for all kinds of societies, for the members would all be compelled to pay attention to questions which they now neglect.

We should think it likely that the forms and growth of nursing organizations in Australia might be considerably affected by the glorious bit of progress just attained there in the uniform extension of national suffrage to the women of all the States of Federated Australia.

We can hardly imagine, for instance, that it will be long before State registration is a fact in all parts of Australia as well as in New Zealand, and we also confidently expect to see nurses have a place on the State Boards of Examination.

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#### NOTES ON NURSING IN PARIS

Mrs. EMMA KEITH BOOTH, who is a graduate of St. Luke's and who has spent much time in Paris, has given us some interesting bits of talk about nursing work and conditions in Paris. Mrs. Booth was there in the exposition year, and presided over a houseful of nurses who had gone there for private duty at that time, it being considered quite necessary that American nurses to succeed in Paris must have a formal and definite background to suit Parisian ideas of propriety. She was also in charge of the exhibit sent from American hospitals and became well acquainted with all the people, men and women, who were interested in hospital work or the training of nurses. Mrs. Booth says:

"The American graduate nurses who came to Paris in 1900 to engage in private nursing have been most successful, and one constantly hears among the resident and travelling Americans of the satisfaction and comfort it is to know that American nurses are permanently established in Paris. There are at present twelve nurses, all centrally located—five at 6 Rue Freycinet, four at 3 Rue D'Alger, three at 81 Avenue Wagram. They represent our largest and best-known training-schools—Bellevue, St. Luke's, Chicago; St. Luke's, New York; St. Luke's, Utica, N. Y.; Presbyterian, New York; Johns Hopkins, Baltimore. The need of an American hospital in Paris has been demonstrated many times, and the fact that one has been given and is well under way and will be managed by American doctors and nurses is a cause for general satisfaction to Americans on both sides of the Atlantic."

Mrs. Booth also tells us of an effort now being made in Paris to educate well-bred young French women as nurses on the modern plan. This movement is carried on by an association of liberal people having its centre at 10 Rue Amyot, and an address of the foundress and president, Madame Alphen-Salvador, recounts the history of their new and experimental attempt; how they took a few pupils, rather on a boarding-school plan, and little by little

are securing hospital practice and a regular curriculum for them. Mrs. Booth says:

"The first year opened with but four pupils, and in September, 1901, when I last visited the school, there were eighteen residents and a large number of pupils following the course of lectures which are given every afternoon except Thursdays. There is only a small hospital in connection with the school, but already plans are in progress for a much larger one. The nurses go regularly to some of the larger hospitals, where opportunity for practical work is made possible by the same doctors who lecture to them. In talking with one of the oldest pupils she mentioned some of the difficulties they found in the beginning, and not among the least was the attitude which many of the older doctors take towards this step taken by these young women.

"The nurses that one finds employed in the city hospitals make it possible to understand in a measure why nursing is looked upon as being quite out of the sphere of the educated and refined woman. The nursing in these hospitals is done by a class of women and men far below the standard of what we in this country demand."

"Two American nurses in Paris" also write this month to the JOURNAL, giving their views of foreign work. They say:

"Our experience leads us to believe that at present there is little or no scope for American nurses in the average European city, except where successful American or English doctors are established, the physicians of the country preferring nurses accustomed to their methods and speaking their language. We have found that wherever English or American physicians have settled there are usually enough English or American nurses to meet the demand. The former predominate, being nearer home and connected, as they are, with the English 'nursing homes.'

"Paris and Rome seem to be the best cities for our nurses, and in both only during the season is there any great need for them. As at home, there may be a month or two in the year when the demand is greater than the supply."

The "Two American Nurses" have been abroad for several years, and comment thus upon hospitals:

"We have made it our business to visit hospitals, and while we have found some *very bad*, yet some of their best are quite up to ours, and much above those found in some parts of the South. . . .

"As to establishing private hospitals in Europe, it would not be easy, the permit of the government being necessary. This, for a foreigner, would be almost impossible to obtain."

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#### ITEMS

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Two league journals are our pleasant visitors from England this month,—the *League News*, of St. Bart's, and the *Journal of the Royal South Hants Nurses' League*—Miss Mollett's hospital. Both are very attractive, like newsway family epistles, with a happy, genial tone; they seem to know that they are filling a long-felt want, and we can imagine how welcome they must be to the old graduates who are off in China and the corners of the earth.

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We are sure that nurses' hearts will be warmed by a message from Miss Hibbard, in Cuba. Miss Hibbard writes:

"The late change in the government has kept everyone in an unsettled condition, but the question of retaining the American graduate nurses is now closed by an official order which states that all engagements with Americans in official positions in the island would be cancelled on June 30, *except the nurses*, who would be retained, as their services were required."

Miss Hibbard has been transferred to Hospital No. 1, Havana.

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It is good to know that Porto Rico is to have hospitals and nurses. Through the kindness of Miss E. Grace McLeay, of Boston, the following note is sent to the JOURNAL:

"SAN JUAN, PORTO RICO.

"TEACHER APPOINTED TO TRAIN NURSES

"The Superior Board of Health has appointed, subject to the approval of the Commissioners of Education, Miss Helen M. Claire, Boston, as teacher of the Training-School for Nurses. This school will be opened as soon as possible in connection with the Maternity Hospital.

"There is at present a private class held in the Military Hospital under the direction of Miss Claire.

"We hope later to establish training-schools at Ponce and Mayaguez."

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MISS AGNES P. MAHONEY, writing from Cape Mount, Liberia, Africa, gives the following bit of interesting experience:

"CAPE MOUNT, LIBERIA, AFRICA.

". . . At the time of receiving your letter I was in quarantine with an epidemic of small-pox. The disease broke out in the boys' school, and the first day sixteen of them developed the rash, and ten more after that. We have no doctor within a radius of at least sixty miles, so I do all the doctoring, and people come from far and near for me to help them, and so, when our boys developed small-pox, I went into quarantine with them. I wish that you could have seen these boys the first night. They think that if they put a broad chalk-mark around their hearts the disease will not cross over it and touch a vital spot; so when I went up to the dormitory they all had drawn a ring around where they supposed their hearts were, and one boy had a big chalk-ring around each eye! I had no trouble in fighting the disease, and they all recovered."

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MRS. BEDFORD-FENWICK has reincorporated the *Nursing Record* as the *British Journal of Nursing*, and the first number has reached us, in which the past and present policy of the journal is defined and its aim, of being "imperial rather than national" in its scope, set forth. The rise in importance and power of England's colonies is felt even in the nursing world, and the progress and independence of New Zealand and Australia have been and will continue to be reflected in the pages of the *British Journal of Nursing*, whose arrival will always be as cordially welcomed here as was that of the *Nursing Record*.

